

**ABSTRACT**

Method and apparatus are disclosed for a computer system including host computers and storage elements. The host computers may be configured into a host domain and the  
5 storage elements configured into a storage domain. The storage domain includes a plurality of primary storage devices and a secondary storage device. The secondary storage device may be coupled to a plurality of the primary storage devices through a network. In another embodiment, the secondary storage device may send and receive information from a heterogeneous set of host computers. In another embodiment, connections for transfer of data  
10 onto the secondary storage element are created automatically.